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Attorney Docket SEL 191

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of)
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Tanaka et al.)
)
Serial No.: 09/610,637)
)
Filed: July 5, 2000)
)
For: Laser Irradiation Apparatus, Laser)
Irradiation Method, Semiconductor)
Device And Method Of Manufacturing)
A Semiconductor Device)/
)
Art Unit: 2813)
)
Examiner: David S. Blum)

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August 2, 2004

(Date of Deposit)

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Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Rep.

Cristine M. Noll

Signature

8/2/2004

Date

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE (B)

Sir:

Applicants have the following response to the Office Action of March 2, 2004, a two month extension of time being submitted herewith.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 67-70 and 74 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai in view of Wakita. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Sakurai uses a lamp and does not disclose or suggest a laser. In contrast, the present invention as claimed in independent Claim 67 recites a laser beam simultaneously irradiated from a front surface and a back surface of a substrate. Sakurai does not disclose or suggest such a simultaneous irradiation of a laser beam from a front surface and a back surface of a substrate.

While Wakita discloses use of a laser, the reference does not disclose or suggest a simultaneous irradiation of a laser beam from a front surface and a back surface of a substrate.

Hence, the present invention as claimed in independent claim 67 is clearly distinguishable over Sakurai and Wakita in that a laser beam is simultaneously irradiated from a front surface and a back surface of a substrate in the present invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner also rejects Claims 72-73 and 75 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai in view of Wakita and further in view of Im. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Claims 72-73 and 75 are dependent claims. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is overcome for at least the same reasons discussed above for independent Claim 67. Further, while Im discloses use of a laser, but the reference does not disclose or suggest a simultaneous irradiation of a laser beam from a front surface and a back surface of a substrate. Hence, the claims are patentable over the cited references, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner further rejects Claim 71 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai in view of Wakita and further in view of Kudo. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Claim 71 is also a dependent claim. Therefore, the rejection of this claim is overcome for at least the same reasons discussed above. Further, while Kudo uses a laser, the reference does not disclose or suggest a simultaneous irradiation of a laser beam from a front surface and a back surface of a substrate. Hence, the claim is patentable over the cited reference, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are submitting herewith an IDS. It is respectfully submitted that this IDS be entered and considered prior to any further action issuing on this application.

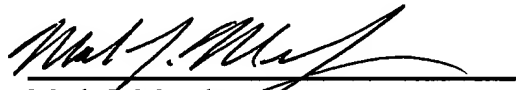
Conclusion

As there are no other rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any fee is due for this response, please charge our deposit account no. 50-1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: August 2, 2004

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